

UNANTICIPATED SCHOOL CLOSURE

MONTANA OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION School Nutrition Programs

CURRENT ACTION

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) may be used for meal service to children during unanticipated school closures. Schools are not required to provide meal service during school closures. The OPI applied for a waiver from USDA to allow the operation of the SFSP during unexpected school closures for all open SFSP sites. The waiver also allows eligible SFSP sponsors to provide grab and go meals rather than congregate meal service to support social distancing.

IF SCHOOLS CLOSE

Eligible schools can sign up with OPI to run the SFSP in order to distribute meals to children ages 18 and under. Contact OPI staff to determine eligible SFSP site locations opi.mt.gov/leadership/management-operations/school-nutrition

CHECKING ELIGIBILITY

1. Area Eligible:
www.fns.usda.gov/capacitybuilder
2. School level Data Eligibility (50% Free or Reduced):opi.mt.gov/Leadership/Management-Operations/School-Nutrition/School-Nutrition-Agreements-Claims-Data

REQUIREMENTS

- Sites must be run as Open sites (i.e. open to all children 18 and under).
- Food will be procured, prepared and provided at a local level.
- Only 2 meal types can be served per day. Lunch and Supper cannot be served at the same site.
- Meals for multiple days may be provided at one time (eg lunch and breakfast for following day).
- Unitized meals must be served (no offer vs serve option).
- Keep meal counts and submit claims for reimbursement.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE

- Use food trucks if available.
- Utilize USDA Foods.
- Shelf stable items, like milk, can be helpful in grab 'n go meals.

EXTRA RESOURCES

OPI SFSP Information:
opi.mt.gov/Portals/182/Page%20Files/School%20Nutrition/SFSP/NewSFSPPartner.pdf

